

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a communications system including a set-top box (STB) in communication with a television and an auxiliary display device, a method of changing program channels viewed on the television and presenting, on a display of the auxiliary display device, a web page associated with a current tuned channel viewed on the television, the method comprising:
 - (a) the STB transmitting current tuned channel information to the auxiliary display device;
 - (b) the auxiliary display device determining a particular uniform resource locator (URL) associated with the current tuned channel information; and
 - (c) the auxiliary display device presenting web content associated with the URL on the display of the auxiliary display device.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - (d) the auxiliary display device presenting a hyperlink on the display, the hyperlink providing access to program channel data associated with a new tuned channel; and
 - (e) activating the hyperlink to change the current tuned channel to the new tuned channel.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
 - (f) correlating the program channel data to a virtual channel map (VCM) stored in the STB.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) further comprises a web browser residing in the auxiliary display device using the URL to access a web site, the web site providing the web content to be presented on the display of the auxiliary display device.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) is implemented in response to a user changing the current tuned channel.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) is implemented in response to a user playing back a previously recorded program viewed on the television, the recorded program including program channel data.

7. In a communications system including a set-top box (STB) in communication with a remote server, a television and an auxiliary display device, a method of changing program channels viewed on the television and presenting, on a display of the auxiliary display device, a web page associated with a current tuned channel viewed on the television, the method comprising:

- (a) receiving, at the STB, a virtual channel map (VCM) from the remote server, the VCM including uniform resource locator (URL) information associated with at least one program channel;
- (b) the STB transmitting the VCM to the auxiliary display device;
- (c) storing the VCM in the auxiliary display device;
- (d) the STB transmitting current tuned channel information to the auxiliary display device;
- (e) the auxiliary display device correlating the current tuned channel information to a particular URL contained in the VCM; and
- (f) the auxiliary display device presenting web content associated with the particular URL on the display of the auxiliary display device.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

- (g) the auxiliary display device presenting a hyperlink on the display of the auxiliary display device, the hyperlink providing access to program channel data associated with a new tuned channel; and
- (h) activating the hyperlink to change the current tuned channel to the new tuned channel.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the program channel data is correlated to a VCM stored in the STB, and the STB changes the current tuned channel to the new tuned channel.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein step (e) further comprises a web browser residing in the auxiliary display device using the particular URL to access a web site, the web site providing the web content to be presented on the display of the auxiliary display device.

11. The method of claim 7 wherein step (d) is implemented in response to a user changing the current tuned channel.

12. The method of claim 7 wherein step (d) is implemented in response to a user playing back a previously recorded program viewed on the television, the recorded program including program channel data.

13. The method of claim 7 wherein the STB transmits the current channel information to the auxiliary display device via the remote server.

14. A communications system for changing program channels viewed on a television and presenting a web page associated with a current tuned channel, the system comprising:

- (a) a set-top box (STB) in communication with the television; and
- (b) an auxiliary display device which includes a display that presents a web page associated with a current tuned channel viewed on the television, wherein:
 - (i) the STB transmits current tuned channel information to the auxiliary display device;
 - (ii) the auxiliary display device determines a particular uniform resource locator (URL) associated with the current tuned channel information; and
 - (iii) the auxiliary display device presents web content associated with the particular URL on the display of the auxiliary display device.

15. The system of claim 14, further comprising:

- (c) a wireless communication bridge, wherein the STB transmits the current tuned channel information to the auxiliary display device via the wireless communication bridge.

16. The system of claim 14 wherein the auxiliary display device presents a hyperlink on the display of the auxiliary display device, the hyperlink providing access to program channel data associated with a new tuned channel when activated.

17. The system of claim 14 wherein the STB includes a virtual channel map (VCM), and the program channel data is correlated to the VCM.

18. The system of claim 14 wherein the auxiliary display device further comprises a web browser used to access a web site based on the particular URL, the web site providing data to be presented on the display of the auxiliary display device.

19. The system of claim 14 wherein the STB transmits current tuned channel information to the auxiliary display device in response to a user changing the current tuned channel.

20. The system of claim 14 wherein the communications system is a cable television (CATV) system.

21. A communications system for changing program channels viewed on a television and presenting a web page associated with a current tuned channel, the system comprising:

(a) a remote server;

(b) a set-top box (STB) in communication with the remote server and the television, the STB including a virtual channel map (VCM); and

(c) an auxiliary display device which includes a display that presents a web page associated with a current tuned channel viewed on the television, wherein the STB transmits current tuned channel information to the auxiliary display device via the remote server.

22. The system of claim 21, further comprising:

(d) a cable modem in communication with the remote server; and

(e) a wireless communication bridge, wherein the STB transmits the current tuned channel information to the auxiliary display device via the remote server, the cable modem and the wireless communication bridge.

23. The system of claim 21 wherein the STB transmits current tuned channel information to the auxiliary display device in response to a user changing the current program channel.

24. The system of claim 21 wherein the remote server is a cable head-end operated by a multiple system cable operator (MSO), the cable head-end comprising:

(i) reverse data channel (RDC) equipment;

(ii) a network control system (NCS); and

(iii) a cable modem termination system (CMTS).

25. The system of claim 21 wherein the communications system is a cable television (CATV) system.